**Rice weevil** (Sitophilus oryzae)

### Biology
- Rice weevil is easily confused with maize weevil.
- The adults are round with long snout, can fly and survive for 2 years.
- The body colour is brown/black, with four orange/red spots arranged in a cross on the wing.
- Females lay 2-6 eggs per day and up to 300 over their life time.
- The female uses strong mandibles to chew holes into grain kernal and deposits eggs.
- The larva develops within the grain, hollowing it while feeding.
- The pest is dispatched through fruit, seed and cuttings containing larvae, pupae or adult.

### Geographical Distribution
- In Kenya it can be found in (Ahero, Bunyala, Kirinyaga, Kisumu, Kilifi, and Kwale counties), Tanzania (Morogoro, Killimanjaro, Arusha, Mbeya, Moshi) and Uganda (lake Kioga, Buguri, butalenja and lira districts).

### Damage on rice crop
- Rice grains have holes with irregular edges.
- Disturb stored grains have weevils migrating upwards from them.
- Infested seeds have reduced germination ability.
- Rice with weevil damage are of poor quality.
- 10-100% yield loss if not controlled.

### Management Strategies
#### 1. Cultural methods
- Plant late and harvest early to reducing pre-harvest losses caused by the grain moth.
- Store properly dried, non-infested grains (at 12% moisture content).
- Remove previous years grains, debris, contaminants and thoroughly clean the storage facilities.
- Use sticky yellow traps near the bag, hot water, or freeze rice for 1 week.
- Inspect all grains and storage containers thoroughly before use.
- Never mix infested with non-infested grains.

#### 2. Biological control
- Place black pepper around the grain stores to repel weevils.
- Use plant extracts such as neem, pyrethrum and castor seed.

#### 3. Chemical control
- Dust grains with malathion 2% + Pyrethrins 0.2% (like Nova Super Blue cross dust, Pydust, Super Malper Dust dust) at 1kg per tonne (3-6 months under ideal (cool, dry) conditions).
- Dust with Actelic gold dust (Pirimiphos Methyl: 7mg/Kg; Thiamethoxam: 2mg/Kg).
- Fumigate stores with phosphine to eliminate existing infestation.